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A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 15th April, 1897.

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The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, JUNE 25, 1897.

LETTER by little the Chinese Government
are learning what are the requirements of
Western countries in regard to the recep-
tion of their Ambassadors, and what is
meant by terms of equality. Between the
ceremonial that attended the audience given
to Mr. Tsew-yi, Special Ambassador from
Russia, by the Emperor KANGHI, on the
25th November, 1920, and that which
marked the reception accorded to the Baron
LA CZIKANN, the Austro-Hungarian Minister,
by the Emperor KWANG-SU in May, 1897,
there was indeed a marked distinction.
On the first named occasion the Russian
representative, although received with some
cordiality, was made to feel that it was a
great condescension on the part of the son
of Heaven to be allowed to enter the Imperial
presence; after having formally presented
his credentials he and his suite were made
to perform the humiliating bow. Nine
times the company were compelled to bow,
every third time standing up and then
kneeling again. This degrading ceremony
has been firmly refused by the Foreign
Ministers since the opening of China after
the first British war, but it was the work
of quite a quarter of a century to induce the
Emperor to grant the audience within the
precincts of the Prohibited City. Even up
to the most recent reception every effort
was made to inflict dishonour on the Ministers
by keeping them waiting and, by holding the
audience in the Hall of the Tributary Nations
called, to make it appear to the Chinese
people that they were Ambassadors from
mean states bringing tribute to the Dragon
Throne. According to the Peking correspon-
dent of a Shanghai contemporary, Baron
LA CZIKANN has improved on this, and
has compelled the Chinese Government to
admit not only himself and his suite but
quite an imposing escort within the
precincts of the Imperial Court. The Baron
in addition to his secretaries had with him
a number of naval officers, and on the day
of audience they sat out in two chairs, all
in glittering uniform, the procession being
headed by two mounted Chinese servants,
while a body guard of ten Austrian soldiers,
carrying their rifles, followed, two more
mounted Chinese bringing up the rear. On

arrival at the entrance gate of the place of
audience, the guards appeared greatly
alarmed at the sight of the foreign escort,
and refused to allow it to pass. An alter-
cation ensued, and it was only calmed down
by the arrival of Prince CHING, President of
the Taung-li Yamen, and a number of high
officials, who attempted to induce the Aus-
trian Minister to leave the troops outside
the gates. The Baron was, however, resolute,
and threatened to return to the Legation with-
out having the audience, which he insisted
was part of the suite designed specially
by his Imperial master, and he was not
allowed to the Chinese Emperor, were not
strongly demurred to this request, but the
Minister was inflexible, and rather than al-
low the ceremony, so carefully pre-arranged,
to lapse, they consented to allow the escort
to proceed to the Pavilion inside the pro-
cincts sacred to the Imperial Court.

This was a distinct triumph over Chinese
convention, and it will not, doubt be re-
peated when Prince OUKTOMSKY, the
Russian Ambassador, is received in au-
dience at Peking. The CHINESE Repre-
sentative will take good care not to accept
anything less than the dignity accorded to
the Minister of the Emperor FRANCOIS
JOSEPH. The time has arrived when the
military feeling of the superiority of the Cen-
tral Kingdom and the occupant of the
Dragon Throne over all outside nations
and sovereigns will have to be formally
laid aside even in Peking and by the
Chinese Emperor himself. The humiliating
defeat of the vast but inert Empire
by little Japan has fairly stripped the last
remnant of glamour from the faded pre-
sences of Chinese splendour and strength.
Because of the extent of the Empire, its
extensive and varied resources, it was be-
lieved, as an article of faith, that a war with
China would belong and exhausting even
to a victor. But the rottenness and the
corruption which have for ages reigned in
the administration rendered the overthrow
of the Chinese empire an easy matter by
disciplined troops, and the same success
would make the partitioning or conquest
of the Empire a comparatively simple task.
The Russians are about to obtain a footing
in Manchuria, which they will find no
difficulty in rendering permanent. They
have only to wait and wait, and the whole
of the northern provinces will fall into the
Great Bear's mouth like ripe fruit. With
the completion of the great Trans-Siberian
Railway a new era will dawn for North
China, an era of further decay and gradual
drift into the arms of Russia. Had the
Chinese Imperial Government accepted the
advice of foreigners twenty years ago and
made great trunk railways through the
Empire her crushing defeat by Japan might
have been averted, and the obligations in-
curred to Russia would not have been
necessary. It is now too late to go back.
It is, also, seemingly, too late to hope
for timely reform, for with LI HUNG-CHANG
and SANGS TAOI still to the fore and general
helplessness on the part of the Grand
Council, the prospect of a stronger admini-
stration being formed seems most unlikely.
Like the other Mikado, in the south-east
corner of Europe, China may take an un-
capable hands off the reins at Peking her
gradual decay and eventual dismemberment
are inevitable. While therefore the loss of
the substance of China power is not dimly
foreseen, the Emperor KWANG-SU need
feel little regret over the loss of the shadow
of supremacy—never more than a
figment of the imagination—over the civilized
world so long claimed for his predecessors
by a vain and egotistical people. The dis-
appearance of this futile shadow ought, had
he any strength of character, to teach him
to grasp more firmly the substance of power
still left him as sovereign ruler of three
hundred millions of subjects.

An Imperial post office is being built at
Tientsin.

The C. P. R. Co.'s chartered steamer *Huygh*
arrived at Vancouver on 6th June.

The "Rikman" line chartered steamer
Cassius passed the Sun Canal on the 21st
instant.

Mr. W. Robinson, the musical conductor
of Follies' Opera Co., was thrown from his
scaffold at Shanghai and sustained a fracture of
the collar-bone.

A hurricane and dust storm swept over
Tientsin on the 25th May, in which a house-
under construction on the French Concession
was blown down and other damage done.

A Tokyo despatch states that the foreign
banks in Yokohama have decided to accept
Japanese public bonds and shares in certain
Japanese companies as security against ad-
vances.

H. E. Lu Hui-chang, ex-Tsai of Chinkiang
and son Minister-designate to Germany and
Austria, arrived at Shanghai from St. Petersburg,
a few days ago and was to leave for Tokyo
on the 25th June.

It is understood that the Shanghai Watch
Committee has recommended that Major Mac-
leod should resign his commission as Com-
mandant of the Shanghai Force on the ground
that it interferes with his duties as Captain
Superintendent of Police.

A Tokyo press despatch of the 25th May
states that the new Treaty with Spain has
been ratified by the Emperor. The ratification
of this and the Portuguese Treaty will be
forwarded to the Japanese Minister in Paris
for exchange.

A man who is supposed to have taken part
in the practical attack on a junk in the harbour
was arrested by the Chinese authorities at
Shanghai on Saturday. On Sunday he was
handed over to the Hongkong police and yester-
day he was taken before Mr. Woodhouse and
remanded. When arrested a loaded revolver
and some of the stolen property was found on
the prisoner.

According to a Peking despatch H. M. S.
the Emperor-Dowager returned to the Forbidden
City from the Lake Palace on the 25th May.
The reason for this is said to be consideration
for the convenience of the Emperor, who every
few days does it necessary to visit the Em-
peror-Dowager to pay his obeisance, the dis-
tance from the Western Gate of Peking to
the Park being quite ten miles.—N. C. Daily News.

Owing to the distress in Shanghai caused
by repeated flooding of the Yellow River embank-
ments the famine relief bazaar of Shanghai
established last year in every large city of the
Empire for the purpose of collecting subscrip-
tions which was to have been closed last May
will have to be continued for another year. Peo-
ple subscribing to the fund have the privilege
of official rank in proportion to the amount sub-
scribed.—N. C. Daily News.

A telegram from the Japanese Consul at
Vancouver, dated the 25th May, states that the
Parliament of British Columbia has adopted a
Bill prohibiting the employment of
Japanese labourers on all works which require
special Government sanction.

With regard to the "Belgian Loan," we are in
a position to state that the loan negotiated was
for 100,000,000 francs, say £1,600,000 sterling.
Moreover, the conditions of the loan do not
include foreign control over the Railway,
which is to remain in Chinese hands; and one
half of the materials are to be supplied from
Chinese sources and the other half put up to
public tender.—Mercure.

A military Court of Inquiry has been
appointed to inquire into the whole question
concerning the acceptance of the loan. The
Court, which has Colonel Rhuland, B.E., as
president, has already held one or two private
sittings and that at the next sitting yesterday,
Garin, who returned from the North yesterday,
will be called as a witness. The appointment
of the Court of Inquiry is a sequel to the dis-
closures made at the trial of Sergeant Freder-

The steamer which came in yesterday (says
the *Shanghai Daily Press* of the 25th May) had
the day before reported the desert for that had
been known for some time that the month
of the ship and to the south during the
last few days. The *Kiangnan* was detained
thirteen hours on her Monday trip near
the Suddies, the type of the ship was not
known, but it was a vessel of about 1,000
tons. The Japanese mail did not arrive until
yesterday noon, twenty-four hours late. The
English mail, which was all delayed, the English
mail due on Tuesday morning not arriving
until late Wednesday evening.

At the Shanghai Consular Court on the 3rd
inst. Percy Y. Vincent, formerly employed as
storekeeper in the service of the Canadian Pacific
Railway Co. at Hongkong, was brought up on
a charge of having stolen from the company
a quantity of glassware, the property of his
employers. Sergeant John Holt of the Hong-
kong police, who had been sent from the
colony, produced evidence to the effect that
he had identified Vincent as the accused, and
that he had seen him at the scene of the
theft. His Worship committed the case to
prison, adding that he was not in a position
to decide on the guilt of the accused, but he
would for a writ of habeas corpus in the Supreme
Court.

The twenty-first annual general meeting of
the Commercial Life Assurance Company was held
at Edinburgh on the 6th April, and the
following results for the year ended 31st
November, 1896, were reported:—The com-
pany's income for the year was £2,322,554, 43s. 6d.
less expenses, £1,834,584, 10s. 6d., leaving
income in force at 31st November, 1896,
amounted to £2,457,328, 10s. 6d. The com-
pany's assets at 31st November, 1896, amount-
ed to £2,660,470, the claims under endow-
ments matured during the year amounted to
£1,000,000, less additions, £1,000,000, the
reserve for 31st November, 1896, amounted to
£1,003,844, the accumulated profits at
31st November, 1896, amounted to £2,483,303,
being an increase during the year of £291,785.

The Working Committee of the Shanghai
Jubilee Celebration at Shanghai announce the
programme of the festivities to take place
on the 22nd instant. At about 10 a.m. there will
be a parade of Volunteers, Bandoliers, and
other troops, marching to the Cathedral,
where there will be a short Thanksgiving
Service. At about noon a Royal Salute of sixty
guns will be fired from the Bund fortifica-
tions in honour of the Emperor and the
Empress. The parade will then move to the
Cathedral, where there will be a short Thanksgiving
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VESSELS EXPECTED.

THE BRENDAH MAIL.

The M. M. steamer *Brendah*, with the French mail of the 7th ultimo, left Saigon on Saturday, the 5th instant, at 5 a.m. and may be expected here on or about Tuesday, the 8th instant. This Packet brings replies to letters despatched from Hongkong on the 1st March.

THE SINGAPORE MAIL.

The P. & O. steamer *Ruyma* left Singapore for this port on Sunday, the 6th inst, at 4 p.m. with the outward English mail and may be expected here on Friday, the 10th instant at noon.

THE AMERICAN MAIL.

The P. M. steamer *China*, with the American mail of the 20th ultimo, left Yokohama on Sunday, the 18th inst, at 10 a.m. and is expected here on or about Monday, the 14th instant.

THE CANADIAN MAIL.

The C. P. steamer *Empress of India* sailed from Vancouver for Yokohama on Monday, the 21st ultimo, and is expected here on Friday, this port.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

The steamer *Suezina*, from Calcutta and Straits, left Singapore for this port on the 2d instant, and is expected here on Friday.

MERCHANT STEAMERS.

The N. P. steamer *Olympia* left Tacoma on the 21st ultimo, and is expected here on Friday.

The P. & O. steamer *Himalayas* left Singapore for London and Suez, left Singapore for the 2nd instant.
 The Austrian Lloyd's steamer *Marquis* *Bac* *unghen* left Singapore for this port on the 1st instant.
 The P. & O. steamer *Brindisi* left Bombay for this port on the 3rd instant.
 The P. & O. steamer *Carfax* left Singapore for this port on the 4th instant at 2 p.m.
 The "Riskmers" Line chartered steamer *Desire*, passed the Suez Canal on the 1st instant due at Singapore on or about the 21st instant.

PASSED THE CANAL.
 OUTWARD—12th May—*Quetta*, *Insarok*

St. Ronald. 14th May—Benauero, Uclia.
18th May—Achilles, Glonoroh, Por-
taria. 21st May—Myrmidon, Polyphenus,
Piscon, Queen Adelaide, Arara. 25th May—
—Mullewa. 28th May—Mandera, Blue
Grass, Loozoo, Scint. 1st June—Chigago,
Maria Victoria. 4th June—Benaco, Ten-
tacles, Ananadiels, Mulu, Lernoo.
TUESDAY—1st June—Erato, Candida. 4th
June—Bertha, Oolong.

POST-OFFICE NOTICES.

THE authorized List of Mails issued in
connection with this paper is thus one published
every six days in our Extra, which is corrected
each day after the hour that given below.

The Postal Guide for 1898, revised to date will be found in the *Chronicle and Directory*, 1898. This is the only authorized complete summary of Postal Information published in the Kingdom.

PEARL DELIVERY closes at Post Office at 12.30 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Wednesdays in the month by 12 and 3.30 o'clock. Trains for London and Peak will be cleared at 12.30 and 4 p.m.

A MAIL WILL CLOSE.

For Saigon.—Per China, to-day, the 8th instant at 9.00 a.m.

For Saigon.—Per Bangkok.—Per P. C. C. (Suez), to-day, the 8th instant at 9.30 a.m.

For Singapore, Colombo and Bombay.—Per West India Mail, to-day, the 8th instant at 10.30 a.m.

30 A.M.
 For Singapore, Penang and Calcutta.—*Per*
Esper, to-day, the 8th inst., at 2.00 P.M.
 For Singapore, Saumang and Sonorabaya.—
Per *Onagaki*, to-day, the 8th inst., at 3.30
 P.M.
 For Nagasaki and Wladivostok.—*Per* *Byggö*,
 to-morrow, the 9th inst., at 10.30 A.M.
 For Singapore and Colombo.—*Per* *Kangavea*,
 to-morrow, the 9th inst., at 3.30 P.M.
 For Kobe, Yokohama and Seattle.—*Per*
Atsuta Maru, on Thursday, the 10th inst.,
 at 3.30 P.M.
 For Nagasaki, Kobe and Yokohama.—*Per*
Yama, on Thursday, the 17th inst., at
 3.30 A.M.
 For Port Darwin, Thursday Island, Cooktown,
 Newcastle, Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne.
 For Perth.—*Per* *Yama*, on Thursday, the 17th

MAILS BY THE UNITED STATES PACKET.
The United States Mail Packet *City of King*, will be despatched on **TUESDAY** next, with Mails for Shanghai, Canton and San Francisco, the United States, Mexico, Honolulu, Peru, &c., which will be sent as follows:—
100 P.M. Registry ceases.
100 P.M. Post Office closes; but Correspondence may be posted on board the Packet. The Fee of 10 cents extra Postage until the time of departure.

MAILS BY THE CANADIAN PACKET.

The Canadian Mail Packet *Empress of India* will be despatched on **WEDNESDAY**, 9th inst., with Mails for Shanghai, Nagasaki, Yokohama, Victoria and Vancouver, and to which will be added as follows:—

5.00 A.M. Registry Office.

5.00 A.M. Post Office closes, but correspondence may be posted on board the Packet with Late Fee of 20 cents extra Postage, until the time of departure.

MAILS BY THE FRENCH PACKET.

The French Contract Packet, *Sydney* will be despatched on **WEDNESDAY**, 9th inst., with Mails to the United Kingdom, and places beyond, via *Marseilles*, *Saigon*, *Strait Settlements*, *Batavia*, *Burma*, *Ceylon*, *Madras*, the *Australian Colonies*,

A.M.—Posting of Prices Current and Circulars ceases.
 A.M.—Registry ceases.
 A.M.—Posting of newspapers, books, and palm-leaf ceases.
 A.M.—Mail closes.

MAILS BY THE ENGLISH PACKET.
 The British Contract Packet *Kanara-Hind* is despatched on **THURSDAY**, the 17th with Mails for the United Kingdom, Europe, countries beyond; *via Brindisi* to the Settlements, Netherlands India, Burmah, Ceylon, Egypt, Malta, and Gibraltar.

A.M.—Posting of Prices Current and Circulars ceases.
 A.M.—Registry ceases.

A.M.—Posting of newspapers, books, and patterns ceases.
A.M.—Mail-closes.
Late letters may be posted (from 11.10 till 12 noon) with 10 cents late fee, up to 11.30 A.M., which hour they may be up to on board the same late fee.
ILIS BY THE GERMAN PACKET.
The German Contract Packet *Prinzess* is despatched on **TUESDAY**, the 22nd inst., westward for the United Kingdom, and countries in the West Indies, the Straits Settlements, Batavia, Barmah, on India, Aden, Egypt, Malta, &c., &c. Money orders at 7.30 A.M.
Small doses at 8.00 A.M. Late letters till 10.00 A.M. with 10 cents extra postage.

RE STOCKHAUSEN
LATE, MILLINER, DRESS AND MANTLE
MAKER,
25, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.
LATEST NOVELTIES
FROM
LONDON AND PARIS. 345
Opening, 3rd September, 1886.

RESPONSIBLE FOR DEBTS.

Neither the CAPTAINS, the AGENTS, nor the
Crews will be RESPONSIBLE for any
T contracted by the Officers or the Crews

Following Vessels during their stay in
Kang Harbour —
Arl. Brk. bk., Martin Frampton—Stan-
ard Oil Co.
BERNE ARCAR, Bril. str., J. G. Olifent,
D. Siscoon, Sons & Co.
Amer ship, Wall—Chinese.
A. NICKELS, Amer. ship, C. F. Nickels
—Standard Oil Co.
ALINA Bril. str., Weston—Chinese.

